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Attorney Docket: 178/50615
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: VOLKER ERNST ET AL
Serial No.: 09/988,825
Filed: NOVEMBER 20, 2001
Title: SEPARATOR FOR LIQUIDS COMPRISING A SEPARATING
CARTRIDGE, PARTICULARLY FOR SEPARATING OIL FROM
CRANKCASE GASES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of Documents AA, AK, and AL to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE
DOCUMENTS**

English abstracts of Documents AK, AL, AM, and AO are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of

a corresponding foreign Search Report citing Documents AM, AN, and AO, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the paper should be considered as a petition for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2) and that the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(3) should be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #178/50615).

Respectfully submitted,

March 14, 2002



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